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ABSTRACT

The background, goals and standards of the Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse are described. The network was formed in 1987 at the instigation of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Department of Education. A planning group met to establish the standards for institutional admission to the network. The standards state the expectation of institutional members in the areas of policy, educational programs, enforcement and assessment. Three appendices are provided: a letter to college presidents from the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues; a list of the members of the planning group for the Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse; and a list of the presidents who reviewed the standards by mail. (KM)

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ED297661

STANDARDS OF THE NETWORK OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES COMMITTED TO THE ELIMINATION OF DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

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Developed at the Network
Planning Group Meeting
September 21-22, 1987
and Revised at a Meeting of
College Presidents
December 9, 1987
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January 5, 1988
and Revised at the Network
Planning Group Meeting
February 2, 1988

HE 021 629

NETWORK OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
COMMITTED TO THE ELIMINATION OF DRUG AND
ALCOHOL ABUSE

American society is harmed in many ways by the abuse of alcohol and other drugs--decreased productivity, serious health problems, breakdown of the family structure, and strained societal resources. Problems of illicit use and abuse of substances have a pervasive impact upon many segments of society--all socio-economic groups, all age levels, and even the unborn. Education and learning are especially impaired by alcohol abuse and illicit drug use. Misuse of alcohol and other drugs among college students inhibits their educational development and is a growing concern among our nation's institutions of higher education. Recent national and campus surveys indicate that alcohol abuse is more prevalent than other drug abuse and that institutions increasingly are requesting community support and mounting cooperative efforts to enforce their policies.

As higher education entered the 1980's, there was clear recognition that alcohol and other drug abuse were major problems. Institutions responded by increasing disciplinary sanctions and educational programs. The higher education community, through various professional associations, also took action. In 1983, the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse Issues was created. That Task Force, made up of representatives of various higher education associations, developed college marketing guidelines targeted at the sale and distribution of alcohol products on U.S. campuses. With the cooperation of colleges and universities in 1983, the task force created National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week and established a model campus alcohol policy.

In 1986 Congress responded to the national problem by passing the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act "to establish, implement and expand programs of drug abuse education and prevention (including rehabilitation referral) for students enrolled in colleges and universities...". Unfortunately, colleges that attempt to institute model programs or effective strategies for coping with problems of alcohol and other drug abuse will find sparse information available in the national data bases and few formal mechanisms for sharing information.

In 1987, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement responded to the higher education community's need for assistance by calling for a network of institutions willing to commit time, energy and resources to reduce and if possible eradicate alcohol and other drug abuse on their campuses. The Secretary of Education assembled a group of higher education administrators to plan such a network with the stated goal being to 1) collect and disseminate research and practice based knowledge about successful programs; 2) provide a forum and mechanism for continuing communication and collaboration among institutions of higher education; and 3) identify areas and problems for further research and development. The planning group, which included chief student affairs officers, health educators, facilities, and legal specialists, proposed a set of minimum standards that institutions would be expected to accept to join the network. These Standards were reviewed and approved by a broadly representative

group of college and university presidents, convened by the Secretary of Education. They were also reviewed by the "Secretariat" which is composed of representatives of the major national organizations of higher education, and have been submitted to these organizations for approval.

The Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse seeks the participation of colleges and universities that have made a commitment throughout their institutions to:

- Establish and enforce clear policies that promote an educational environment free from the abuse of alcohol and other drugs.

- Educate members of the campus community for the purpose of preventing alcohol and other drug abuse, as well as educate them about the use of legal drugs in ways that are not harmful to self or others.

- Create an environment that promotes and reinforces healthy, responsible living; respect for community laws and campus standards and regulations; the individual's responsibility within the community; and the intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual or ethical, and physical well-being of its community members.

- Provide for a reasonable level of care for alcohol and drug abusers through counselling, treatment and referral.

Network of Colleges and Universities Committed
to the Elimination of
Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Standards

The Standards for the Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elmination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Universities define criteria for institutional membership in the Network. The Standards are organized within the four areas of Policy, Education, Enforcement and Assessment.

A. Policy

Network members shall...

1. Develop policy which addresses both individual behavior and group activities.

2. Promulgate policy, consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, using such means as student and faculty handbooks, orientation programs, letters to students and parents, residence hall meetings, and faculty and employee meetings.

3. Define the jurisdiction of the policy carefully to guarantee the inclusion of all campus property. Apply campus based standards to other events controlled by the institution.

4. Stipulate guidelines on marketing and hosting for events involving students, faculty, staff and alumni at which alcoholic beverages are present.

5. Articulate the institutional commitment to provide for the education and development of students, faculty, and staff regarding alcohol and other drug abuse.

B. Education Programs

Network members shall...

1. Provide a system of accurate, current information exchange on the health risks and symptoms of alcohol and other drug use for students, faculty, and staff.

2. Promote and support alcohol-free institutional activity programming.

3. Provide, with peer involvement, a system of intervention and referral services for students, faculty, and staff.

4. Establish collaborative relationships between community groups and agencies and the institution for alcohol and drug related education, treatment, and referral.

5. Provide training programs for students, faculty, and staff to enable them to detect problems related to alcohol and other drug use and to refer persons with these problems to appropriate assistance.

6. Include alcohol and other drug information for students and their family members in student orientation programs. The abuse of prescription and over-the-counter drugs should also be addressed.

7. Support and encourage faculty in incorporating alcohol and other drug education into the curriculum, where appropriate.

8. Develop a coordinated effort across campus for alcohol and other drug related education, treatment, and referral.

C. Enforcement

Network members shall...

1. Publicize all alcohol and other drug policies.

2. Consistently enforce alcohol and other drug policies.

3. Exercise appropriate disciplinary action for alcohol and/or other drug policy violations.

4. Establish disciplinary sanctions for the illegal sale or distribution of drugs; minimum sanctions normally would include separation from the institution and referral for prosecution.

D. Assessment

Network members shall...

1. Appraise the institutional environment as an underlying cause of alcohol and other drug abuse.

2. Assess campus awareness, attitudes, and behaviors regarding the abuse of alcohol and other drugs and employ results in program development.

3. Collect and use alcohol and other drug related information from police or security reports to guide program development.

4. Collect and use summary health and counselling client information to guide program development.

5. Collect summary data regarding alcohol and drug related disciplinary actions and use it to guide program development.

Fort Hays State University

Office of the President 600 Park Street Hays, KS 67601-4099 (913) 628-4231

April, 1988

Dear President:

I am writing on behalf of the INTER-ASSOCIATION TASK FORCE ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES. This Task Force represents approximately thirty thousand educators in colleges and universities in the U.S. and has been working over the last six years to provide resources and ideas for educators' use in combatting alcohol and other substance abuse on our campuses. You may recall that the Task Force previously provided model guidelines limiting the marketing of alcoholic beverages on college campuses and then later provided a model campus alcohol policy.

The Inter-Association Task Force, along with other individuals and organizations, has recently been involved in the drafting of the "Network of Colleges and Universities Committed to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse" Standards which are enclosed in this mailing. We have reviewed the standards and believe that they represent a reasoned and effective way of continuing to deal with alcohol and drug abuse on our campuses. The representatives of the Task Force have voted to endorse the Standards and are now working with each of the respective associations which they represent in gaining the broader endorsement of all of the associations represented on the Task Force. The process of endorsement is expected to be completed by May of 1988. After the endorsements are obtained, the Standards will be distributed to the thirty thousand members of the associations and informational and educational programs will be undertaken to encourage campuses to use the standards on the local level.

My purpose in writing is to indicate that there are educators on your local campus who will be informed of the Network Standards and will be receiving support in their efforts to implement the standards. Your campus support and acknowledgement of their efforts will also add greatly to the likelihood of success which they experience. Thank you for your support and attention to this important area of concern to the higher education community.

Sincerely yours,

Edward H. Hammond

Edward H. Hammond, Ph.D.
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Enclosures

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*These presidents were unable to attend the meeting but reviewed the Standards by mail.